

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

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REPS. MARKEY AND KING TO INTRODUCE BILL TO REQUIRE FIRE-SAFE CIGARETTES NATIONWIDE

Lawmakers seek to build on foundation laid by new state standard in New York

Washington, D.C. - Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-MA), a Senior Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, released the following statement applauding New York's adoption of a landmark cigarette fire safety regulation and calling for the swift passage of a national standard based on the consensus established in New York.

"This is great news for the people of New York. Fires ignited by cigarettes are the leading cause of fire deaths in this country. Each year, cigarette ignited fires cause more than 800 deaths, 2,200 injuries and over \$550 million in property damages. Many of these victims are innocent children and senior citizens."

"Starting in June, the residents on at least one state -- New York -- can rest easy knowing that they have done everything they can to prevent these devastating losses; Americans living in other states should be afforded the same peace of mind. We can no longer tolerate losing one more innocent child or putting one more firefighter at risk in a fire that could have been prevented at the cost of pennies by making a couple simple changes to the construction of a cigarette."

"Soon Congressman Peter King (R-NY) and I will introduce bi-partisan legislation endorsed by the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI), The National Volunteer Fire Council and the National Association of State Fire Marshals, which will set reasonable ignition standards for cigarettes and help protect *all* Americans from these little torches."

"I applaud New York's action and urge Congress to seize this opportunity by quickly passing national legislation," concluded Rep. Markey.

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